

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 254932

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SPAIN

IN AN OCTOBER CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR STABLER, SOCIALIST WORKER PARTY LEADER FELIPE GONZALEZ QUESTIONED JUAN CARLOS' RESOLVE IN IMMEDIATELY BREAKING WITH THE FORCES OF THE RIGHT AND LEADING SPAIN TOWARD A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. ALTHOUGH RELATIVELY SANGUINE ON PROSPECTS FOR A PEACEFUL TRANSITION, GONZALEZ OPINED THAT:

--JUAN CARLOS PROBABLY WILL OPT FOR A POLICY OF TIGHTLY CONTROLLED EVOLUTION TOWARD AN EVENTUAL DEMOCRACY--THE OPTION THAT CARRIES THE GREATEST RISK OF DPSRUPTION BY THE ULTRA-RIGHT.

--A LEGALIZED COMMUNIST PARTY COULD BE CONTROLLED
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WHEN A CHRPSITIAN DEMOCRATIC/SOCIALIST LEFT CAME TO

DOMINATE A TRULY FREE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS (THE CLASSIC SOCIALIST POSITION).

--THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD BE A LIBERAL MILITARY MAN WITH INFLUENCE AND CREDIBILITY IN BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CIRCLES, AND SHOULD DISMANTLE A NUMBER

OF FRANCO-ERA ORGANIZATIONS TO SHOW DOUBTERS HIS FORCEFULNESS AND COMMITMENT TO CHANGE.

--THE US SHOULD MAKE KNOWN ITS DESIRE FOR A RAPID TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY, SINCE A SIZABLE SEGMENT OF SPANISH OPINION IS IN DOUBT ABOUT US PREFERENCES. (CONFIDENTIAL) MADRID 7481, 10/26.

2. SAUDI ARABIA

PRINCE SULTAN RESPONDED TO AMBASSADOR AKINS' REPORT OF YEMENI CONCERN THAT THE SAUDPS ARE DRAGGING THEIR FEET ON THE ISSUE OF A US ARMS PACKAGE BY GIVING ASSURANCES THAT THE SAUDIS ARE NOW PREPARED TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT. THE ARMS PACKAGE, WHICH SULTAN DESCRIBED AS "VERY LITTLE INDEED," WILL BE APPROVED FOLLOWING YEMENI GENERAL GHAMSHI'S VISIT TO RIYADH, AND THERE WILL PROBABLY BE A REQUEST FOR MORE US ARMS FOR THE YEMEN. (SECRET) JIDDA 7188, 10/26.

3. ANTI-ZIONISM RESOLUTION: STRONG PUBLIC REACTION IN BRAZIL

EMBASSY BRASILIA REPORTS THAT THE BRAZILIAN VOTE FOR THE UN ANTI-ZIONISM RESOLUTION HAS EVOKED VEHEMENT MEDIA COMMENT, WHICH HAS SO FAR BEEN UNIFORMLY AND SHARPLY NEGATIVE. THE PRESS SPECULATED THAT:

--THE FINAL DECISION FOR THE VOTE WAS MADE NOT BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER BUT BY THE PRESIDENT.

--THE ISRAELIS, WHILE "PAINFULLY SURPRISED" AT THE BRAZILIAN VOTE, WERE MORE CONCERNED BY THE MEXICAN SECRET

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AND CHILEAN VOTES, SINCE ISRAEL HAS REFRAINED FROM CRITICIZING THE CHILEANS' HUMAN RIGHTS POSITION AND MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA RECENTLY VISITED ISRAEL. (UNCLASSIFIED) BRASILIA 9298, 10/24.

4. SPANISH SAHARA: MOROCCAN MINISTER FORESEES RATIONAL OUTCOME

MOROCCAN MINISTER OF COOPERATION BENHIMA TOLD ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON THAT IT IS PROBABLE THAT MOROCCO WILL MAKE RAPID PROGRESS IN WORKING OUT AN UNDERSTANDING WITH SPAIN. HOWEVER, THE MARCH WILL HAVE TO PROCEED, PERHAPS REDUCED TO A "SYMBOLIC" REPRESENTATION, WITH THE REST OF THE MARCHERS REMAINING ON THE MOROCCAN SIDE OF THE BORDER.

EMBASSY COMMENT: BENHIMA INTIMATED THAT THE DECISION FOR THE MARCH WAS MADE IN EARLY OCTOBER AND WAS KEPT A SECRET BY ONLY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE. (SECRET) RABAT 5170, 10/25.
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